

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The year 2008 has been one of opportunities to develop personnel, build our team, and increase accountability and efficiency.

This past year saw the addition of a professional Prosecutor, Attorney Catherine Baumann a Prosecutor with 20 years of experience. We also filled patrol vacancies by hiring three full-time Officers: Christian Johnson and K-9 Zeke, Dennis Orbino and Tyler Glidden plus one part-time Officer, Jonathan Briggs. In addition to the above named appointments, we promoted Officer Richard Vanderhoof to the rank of Sergeant. We had two lateral promotions, Officer Eric Borge to Detective and Officer Nick Skiba to School Resource Officer. We also have initiated a Civilian Volunteer Patrol with the hiring of CPO Paul White.

Our agency used Highway Safety grants to augment patrol levels. The causal benefit of the grant patrols was in allowing a more pro-active form of service delivery during targeted higher volume dates and times. We applied for and received grant funding for more advanced administrative training, ballistic vests, Automated External Defibrillator's and underage drinking patrols.

We have updated our departmental web-site to better interface with our community. We have developed a Departmental Strategic Plan, Mission Statement, and an Annual Action Plan. All of which can be found on our departmental website.

We are painstakingly breaking down each and every cost on the path to renovating our Police facility. Our goals in this process are to bring our building to current NH State accreditation standards, obtaining the best value for Alton's dollar and building a structure that will house the Police Department for the next 20 years. A feasibility study for expanding the existing police facility was conducted by a NH Architectural firm and conceptual drawings for adding nearly 7000 square feet are currently under review. Finalizing plans for addressing the need for additional space in our police facility is a major goal for our agency in the year 2009, as is moving into a functionally expanded and renovated facility before the end of 2010.

The Alton Police Department continues to strive towards the goals of crime reduction and ultimately the elimination of victimization. Our agency continues to operate under the Community Orientated Policing philosophy, a philosophy that draws strength from the community through partnerships to better solve problems before they become crimes.

I speak for our entire agency in thanking the community of Alton for allowing us to do our jobs, supporting us to the goal of providing the safest community on the "Big Lake", ensuring our quality of life that we all deserve and work for each and every day.

Thank you,
Philip A. Smith Jr.
Chief of Police Alton NH